



PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Announces Settlement with J. W. Ancel, Inc.

Construction Company Paid \$145,000 to Resolve False Claims

BALTIMORE, MD (August 3, 2018) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that J. W. Ancel, Inc., a Towson-based construction firm, paid \$145,000 to settle allegations that the company submitted false claims for payment to the State.

“In 2015, I successfully lobbied for passage of the Maryland False Claims Act,” said Attorney Frosh. “Since its passage, we are pursuing companies like J.W. Ancel that attempt to defraud State government. By weeding out dishonest companies, the False Claims Act levels the playing field for honest businesses to succeed.”

J. W. Ancel, Inc. was awarded a contract in 2013 for phase I construction of a bus facility and maintenance building for the Maryland Transit Administration. During the course of the project, J. W. Ancel, Inc. submitted requests for adjustments to the contract for work that it claimed was not covered by the original contract. The State alleged that these requests included claims for excess or overstated amounts, in violation of the Maryland False Claims Act. The alleged excess and overstated costs were not approved for payment, and the settlement agreement resolves allegations that the submission of the claims was improper.

The Maryland False Claims Act prohibits the submission of false or fraudulent claims for payment to the government. Violators may be required to pay up to three times of the amount of damages sustained by the State and additional penalties of up to \$10,000 per claim.

In making today’s announcement, Attorney General Frosh thanked Assistant Attorneys General Shelly Marie Martin, Meryl Dunlap, Ian Fallon, and Joshua Caplan.